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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-reference application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 11, 14, and 24 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-24 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11, 12, 14-17, and 24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED OVER TAKEZAWA ET AL. (USP# 4,625,333)

The present invention as recited in claim 11 (as amended herein), for example, relates to a cable-side optical communication unit comprising "an optical module to house said light emitting section, said light receiving section, and an integrated circuit to execute communications with the apparatus-side optical communication unit, wherein the light emitting section is connected to one of a pair of optical fiber cables to transmit the optical signal from the optical fiber cable to the apparatus, and the light receiving section is connected to the other pair of optical fiber cables to transmit the optical signal from said apparatus to the optical fiber."

Thus, in the present invention, since the cable-side optical communication unit includes an optical module that houses a light emitting section, a light receiving section, and an integrated circuit for executing communications with the apparatus-side optical communication unit, spatial transmission based on the contact communication is feasible, resulting in reduction of optical power of the light emitting section and increase of a communication speed (see page 26, lines 16 to page 27, line 5 of the Applicant's specification). Further, as optical communications through optical fiber cables are controlled by a pair of cable-side communication units themselves, a communication timing between the pair of cable-side communication units can be maintained in a good condition regardless of the length of the optical fiber cable (see also page 27, lines 20-24 of the Applicant's specification).

Takezawa discloses a transmission module unit having a light emitting element and a lens confronting the light emitting element and a reception module unit having a light receiving element and a lens confronting the light receiving element. In Fig. 1, Takezawa discloses a receptacle 3, and in Figs. 8 and 9, a connector receptacle body 81, convex lens 61 and 62, and the transmission and reception module units 12 and 13 formed on ceramic substrates 11A and 11B, respectively.

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However, Takezawa discloses is a cable-side optical communication unit which fails to include an optical module having a light emitting section, a light receiving section, and an integrated circuit for executing communications with an apparatus-side optical communication unit, wherein the optical module is included in the cable-side optical communication unit. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Takezawa does not disclose or suggest the features recited in claim 11 of the present application.

Claim 14 recites an optical communication unit comprising "an optical module to house said signal transmitting/receiving section such that the light emitting section is connected to one of a pair of optical fiber cables to receive the optical signal from the other of said apparatuses, and that the light receiving section is connected to the other of a pair of optical fiber cables to transmit the optical signal from said one of said apparatuses to the optical fiber, and the optical module including a first converging lens attached thereto to converge the optical signal transmitted by said light emitting section, a second converging lens attached thereto to converge the optical signal received at said light receiving section," which distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Claim 24 recites a cable-side optical communication unit comprising "an optical module to house the light transceiver section and an integrated circuit to execute communications with the apparatus-side optical communication unit, wherein the light transceiver section is connected to one of a pair of optical fiber cables to transmit the optical signal from the optical fiber cable to the apparatus, and the light transceiver section is connected to the other pair of optical fiber cables to transmit the optical signal from said apparatus to the optical fiber," which distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Claim 12, and claims 15-18, 20 and 21 depend from claims 11 and 14, respectively. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claims 11 and 14 distinguish over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 12, 15-18, 20 and 21 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TAKEZAWA ET AL. AS APPLIED TO CLAIM 11 ABOVE, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF KOBAYASHI (USP# 5,986,785)

The comments in section II, above, also apply here because claim 13 depends from claim 11. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claim 11 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 also distinguishes over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

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IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 19, 22 and 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TAKEZAWA ET AL. AS APPLIED TO CLAIM 14 ABOVE, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF TSUJI ET AL. (USP# 5,664,035)

The comments in section II, above, also apply here because claims 19, 22 and 23 depend from claim 14. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claim 14 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19, 22 and 23 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1-9-04

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